
John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3039 Centennial, CO 80161

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$25.00
Life Membership \$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photo:

This new obverse die and thus new die marriage for the 1795 Flowing Hair Half Dollar was discovered in May 2020. It is only the second 1795 FH Half Dollar marriage discovered since the Haseltine Type Table Sale in 1881, the other being discovered prior to the Beistle half dollar book's publication in 1929. It will be called O-123 (Overton-133). Image courtesy of Steve Herrman and W. David Perkins.

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Editor's Comments

Happy Holidays to everyone. It is that time of year again to renew your membership in JRCS. You will find a renewal form included in the envelope with your journal. Please forward your check to David to continue your participation in our club.

You will also find a ballot for voting for the Jules Reiver Literary Award for 2021. Please vote for up to three articles from the list and return it with your dues renewal check. The winner(s) will be announced at the annual meeting during the ANA convention in August. Good luck to all the authors who have helped make the JR Journal a success.

The FUN show is fast approaching. We will have our meeting on Friday morning at 8:30. We are still working on the presentation for the meeting and will announce the subject and speaker through JR News as soon as possible.

The other exciting news for the FUN show is that the John McCloskey collection will be sold by Heritage Auctions during the convention and in a dedicated internet auction in February. John was a founding father of our society and there will be many interesting Bust and Seated coins available for bidding. Please see the insert included in this issue for more information on the sale.

The next issue of the journal is scheduled for the Spring of 2022. We currently do not have anything on hand to publish.

Please consider sending something to me for inclusion in that issue. Collectors of Bust Dollars should begin preparing for their census which will be included in next year's ANA issue of the journal.

There will be some significant changes coming in the next few years for the society. As mentioned in the last journal I am planning on retiring as the editor after the 100th issue. That will be two years from now. I would love to have someone volunteer to take over the job soon so that we can work together for a smooth transition. If necessary, I will be willing to continue as an associate editor past the 100th. We are also looking for a new program chairperson. Glenn Peterson has supplied us with interesting speakers for quite some time now but has requested that someone else take over those duties. We have a speaker for the annual FUN and ANA conventions. If anyone is interested in serving the society in either of these rolls please contact me as soon as possible at bkaroleff@yahoo.com.

Now on to the current issue of our journal to see the current census information on Capped Bust and Reeded Edge half dollars, Richard Meaney's exciting announcement of a new discovery in the half dimes, Ron Guth's look at 1794 half dimes, David Finkelstein's contributions on 6 bit half dollars and a whimsical look at the half dime lunch room with David Perkins and a blast from the past from legends Logan, Hilgard and your editor.



What's Going on in the Tiny World of Capped Bust Half Dimes... and a New Remarriage

By Richard Meaney

I initially presented the information in this article to attendees at the JRCS Membership Meeting at the 2021 ANA World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Illinois. The presentation was apparently well-received, so a number of members and JRCS officers asked me to publish the content of the presentation in the JR Journal.

Although I sold my collection of capped bust half dimes to David Perkins in the summer of 2021, I still stay involved in the goings-on with my favorite series. My experience with capped bust half dimes over the past 18 or so years helps me to frame my perspective on the series, which I think will help others to understand the state of the market for capped bust half dimes. I will focus on four topics in this article:

- Major and Semi-Major Collections Sold in the Last Few Years
- Characteristics that Collectors Prefer
- A Cud Worth Discussion
- A Discovery!

COLLECTIONS SOLD

In the last couple of decades there have been some major collections sold. Many who follow half dimes, and many who do not, are familiar with these sales. The notable auctions included the Russell Logan collection in 2002 by Bowers and Merena, the Jules Reiver collection in 2006 by Heritage, and the Russell Logan duplicates in 2006 by Brad Karoleff (Coins+). Until 2014, those sales were the high-water marks for activity in half dime collections. Enter David Perkins...

Perkins began his "Extraordinary Half Dime Sales" in 2014. Among the Perkins extraordinary sales we saw the collection of Jim Matthews in 2014; the collections of Michael Crowder and of Wes Chormicle in 2015; the collection of Alan Foerder in 2017; the collection of Steve Crain in 2019 and 2020; and the first part of the Richard Meaney collection in 2021 (with the remainder of the Meaney collection to be sold in 2022).

COLLECTOR PREFERENCES

Through my involvement with the Perkins sales AND extensive interaction with fellow collectors of and dealers in capped bust half dimes, I've concluded that collectors have made it clear they are looking for very specific characteristics with their collecting habits. These characteristics are:

- Preference for PCGS-graded coins
- Willingness to pay a premium for PCGS-graded coins with CAC stickers
- Desire for coins in the AU to MS64 grade range for all but the super-rarities
- Provenance matters a lot to a significant minority of collectors
- Die states have a strong following (most prefer late die states)
- Rare remarriages are in high demand, but only by a subset of collectors
- Color is important to some ... then again, some prefer "white coins"

A CUD

Speaking of later die states ...

Most capped bust half dime fans know the plate coin (Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837, page 263) for the 1835 LM-5.2 remarriage shows a retained cud on the reverse. For years, this was the only example of this remarriage known with the retained cud. Then along came the Iowa collector, who revealed that he purchased his first half dime cud on March 20, 2005. It happened to be a LATER die state than the 1835 LM-5.2 plate coin! The Iowa collector now owns hundreds of half dimes with various late die state features, mostly retained and full cuds, but still owns just one 1835 LM-5.2 with the retained cud on the reverse.

I have provided below images of the reverse of the 1835 LM-5.2 plate coin and the Iowa collection coin so that you may compare the die states. I have viewed these coins in hand and believe the Iowa collection coin to be a later die state. That doesn't mean it is the latest die state possible, just the latest die state example we know to exist. So I encourage you to keep looking!

The reverse for the plate coin.



The reverse for the Iowa collection coin



NEW DISCOVERY

I am grateful to have been chosen to announce a more recent discovery by the Iowa collector. This new discovery means you can start looking for AT LEAST one new die remarriage! The Iowa collector found a holed 1830 half dime with a retained cud on the reverse over NIT of UNITED. This type of cud is normally associated with another die marriage that also used Reverse L, the 1831 LM-1 die marriage. Take a look at the coin here:



Clearly, this must be a new remarriage. For now, we are calling this the 1830 LM-9.3. However, the research must not end here. There is likely at least *one additional remarriage* that needs to be described too! If one examines enough 1831 LM-1.3 half dimes, one notices there are early die state examples that show a crack at NIT of UNITED, and there are later die state examples that show a later die state cud than the one featured above on the 1830 LM-9.3. So perhaps the numbering for the 1831 LM-1 remarriages should include LM-1.1, LM-1.2, LM-1.3, and LM-1.4! Think about it: just when you thought it was a challenge to collect 123 die marriages and remarriages, it will be an even greater undertaking to assemble at least 125! Certainly, more research needs to be done. Further, I recognize that we don't always incorporate the results of research into our collecting and "categorizing" goals. For example, years ago I illustrated that there may be no distinction between 1829 LM-13.1 and LM-13.2, yet we still designate the die marriage this way. So it may take YEARS before the 1830 LM-9 and 1831 LM-1 remarriages achieve wide recognition amongst the collector base and become sorted out.

This article was meant to be the starting point of the discussion on the newly-discovered remarriage. It is my sincere hope that this article spurs collectors to look for additional examples and to compare the die state shown on this coin to their 1831 LM-1.3 half dimes to see if we truly need to further reassess the remarriage numbering for the 1830 LM-9 AND the 1831 LM-1.

R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

By Stephen J. Herrman

United States Capped Bust Lettered Edge Half Dollars were minted using a manual screw press at the Philadelphia Mint between the years 1807 and 1836. The current edition of the Overton/Parsley reference describes 450 die marriages.

This census survey covers the 132 die marriages that are currently estimated to be Rarity-4 to Rarity-8. Prior census surveys for the R4 to R8 Capped Bust half dollars may be found in Volume/Issue 27/3, 24/3, 22/3, 20/3, 18/2, 16/1, 12/3, and 8/2 of the Journal.

The revised rarity rating estimates used in this census survey are from the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC) study of all Overton die marriages and die states in 2020. The results of the 2020 BHNC study were published in Volume 31/Issue 1 in March 2021.

The R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census – Top 15 Collections 4-page table presents the top 15 collections submitted. The submitters' JRCS membership numbers included in the top row on each page serve to identify individual collections. The total, average, and maximum grade columns include all coins submitted.

The R4 to R8 Capped Bust Half Dollar Census By Grade 4-page table presents the top 15 coins for each variety, as graded by the submitters. The total, average, and maximum grade columns include all coins submitted.

Reference Table of Rarity Rating Levels

Rating	Est Nbr
R8	1-3
R7+	4-6
R7	7-9
R7-	10-12
R6+	13-18
R6	19-24
R6-	25-30
R5+	31-46
R5	47-63
R5-	64-80
R4+	81-120
R4	121-160
R4-	161-200
R3	201-500
R2	501-1000
R1	over 1000

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS

Year	Var	R.	474	323	1037	151	189	019	1313	739	718	1446	140	049	070	263	510	Tot	Avg	Max
1807	111	4	40	40	35	20	15	40	30	45	35	25	15	20	15	8	30	47	26	55
1808	110	4	55	50	40	30	40	35	30	45	10	30	45	25	40	12	20	52	30	58
1809	101	5	45	45	30	40	30	30	40	40	15	15	12	10	35	25	25	42	25	50
1809	104	5-	53	53	30	45	40	40	20	25	25	45	20	20	20	50	30	39	31	55
1809	108	4+	45	45	30	25	45	20	45	45	25	50	40	30	25	45	35	50	28	50
1809	110	4+	45	53	35	12	40	30	12	12	12	40	20	30	15	20	20	46	29	58
1809	112	5-	45	50	40	45	30	25	15	25	15	20	30	15	40	25	30	46	27	53
1809	113	5	40	53	20	40	30	40	20	40	20	30	45	40	15	25	30	38	27	53
1809	114	5-	35	50	40	25	35	40	20	15	25	25	20	10	12	12	12	44	24	50
1810	107	4	63	55	20	62	45	40	45	35	35	50	20	25	25	30	30	50	37	63
1811	102	4	55	53	40	30	45	30	40	55	35	40	25	20	25	20	15	49	37	58
1811	107	4	58	58	40	55	40	30	40	40	35	40	45	35	20	35	15	45	40	64
1811	112	4-	61	55	30	62	40	40	35	35	20	45	35	30	18	35	30	57	39	63
1811	113	5-	53	58	25	40	53	45	30	25	25	20	15	35	20	12	20	46	32	58
1812	101	5-	20	30	25	15	20	4	35	10	20		25	4	30			26	22	50
1813	104	4	53	50	40	45	45	35	45	35	25	45	35	40	35	35	25	44	37	58
1814	106	4	53	55	45	35	35	20	50	55	20	40	40	30	45	25	25	50	37	64
1817	102	7-	8															2	22	35
1817	104	6	40	45	4	10	12	25	6	25			25					13	26	50
1817	105	4-	58	55	40	30	45	40	53	40	40	45	50	45	45	25	30	63	37	62
1817	107	4+	53	50	40	55	40	40	25	40	20	50	30	30	45	20	35	47	36	63
1817	108	4+	55	58	40	40	45	35	40	35	12	50	45	30	20	30	40	48	38	58
1818	105	4+	55	55	30	30	35	45	40	40	35	50	20	30	30	35	40	47	36	63
1818	106	4	53	55	30	45	45	45	55	40	35	40	15	45	10	25	40	45	39	58
1818	110	4	58	63	40	55	45	35	30	25	40	50	25	40	35	45	30	49	38	63
1818	113	4	58	53	40	40	45	45	45	45	45	45	12	35	40	30	45	47	39	58
1818	115	4	53	58	35	50	30	35	35	35	20	35	45	25	15	12	30	51	32	58
1819	105	4	55	58	55	25	40	40	53	25	25	45	12	20	30	12	45	44	40	62
1819	106	4	55	62	25	35	35	30	40	45	12	40	35	40	12	12	40	36	36	64
1819	107	4	58	61	45	40	50	40	30	30	45	40	40	30	48	20	40	53	41	61
1819	112	4	55	58	30	30	55	45	35	35	35	55	35	40	25	25	40	46	40	64
1820	107	5	35	55	40	53	40	30	25	25	12	35	15	35	25	45	20	38	29	55
1822	102	4	55	62	40	45	35	40	20	30	30	50	20	30	25	25	30	43	37	62
1822	103	4	62	50	30	45	40	40	30	50	25	53	45	15	35	25	35	48	35	64
1822	112	4+	64	55	40	40	40	30	50	30	35	50	12	35	40	45	35	39	36	64
1823	102	4	55	62	45	30	45	40	45	40	8	50	10	40	25	25	20	43	36	62
1823	109	5	40	58	40	25	45	55	30	20	25	20	8	20	18	15	20	35	30	58
1823	113	6+	40	30	8	4	12	4										8	16	40

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS

Year	Var	R.	474	323	1037	151	189	019	1313	739	718	1446	140	049	070	263	510	Tot	Avg	Max
1824	102	5+	50	58	20	40	35	30	8	25	8	20	6	30	12	15	30	32	22	63
1824	106	4	55	58	45	40	40	40	53	40	30	58	40	20	40	35	45	45	41	63
1824	112	4	58	55	50	25	50	35	40	50	40	55	45	40	30	20	35	44	39	58
1824	114	5-	53	58	40	40	40	40	30	15	12	40	15	25	45	35	8	41	31	58
1825	103	4-	62	55	55	45	50	30	55	45	45	50	53	40	25	30	40	50	40	62
1825	104	4	63	61	30	15	40	45	55	55	30	55	12	40	20	30	20	48	37	64
1825	108	4-	63	58	30	30	50	35	45	40	35	53	12	40	30	35	50	46	42	64
1825	109	4+	55	63	35	25	40	25	50	20	12	40	50	20	20	30	15	48	33	64
1825	117	4-	65	58	50	35	63	45	45	40	40	50	15	30	40	50	40	45	45	65
1825	118	7+	15	20		8												4	13	20
1826	103	5-	50	58	45	30	40	45	40	40	30	53	35	40	30	20	20	44	38	58
1826	114	4	61	62	30	30	45	40	30	58	35	50	50	25	20	40	30	51	42	66
1826	115	4+	63	55	45	30	50	45	25	58	45	55	30	45	25	25	25	48	41	63
1826	119	4	58	62	40	40	40	40	45	40	30	53	40	30	35	20	40	40	41	63
1826	120	4-	58	58	45	58	35	25	45	50	35	55	45	45	20	40	40	50	44	64
1827	103	4	55	62	50	40	40	40	58	40	30	53	40	35	35	35	20	40	39	63
1827	108	4-	58	63	45	35	40	40	45	50	45	45	45	35	20	35	30	50	42	63
1827	109	4-	62	58	35	40	40	40	40	50	45	50	45	40	20	30	45	45	44	63
1827	110	4-	62	62	58	35	45	40	40	35	45	50	35	40	30	35	30	47	43	62
1827	111	4	53	58	30	45	45	45	45	55	35	53	45	40	45	35	35	45	43	63
1827	113	4	55	61	30	40	40	40	40	35	40	55	53	40	35	20	40	46	43	64
1827	116	4	62	58	40	30	58	45	58	25	40	35	45	40	25	25	35	51	40	62
1827	118	4-	58	58	35	30	40	40	53	45	20	55		30	40	35	35	47	44	64
1827	119	4	55	58	40	30	45	40	53	40	30	45	30	35	20	30	25	45	41	63
1827	121	4	63	62	35	35	45	45	62	25	45	53	40	30	35	35	30	43	41	63
1827	122	5	53	58	35	35	50	30	40	8	30	35	20	30	25	40	25	37	33	58
1827	123	4+	55	58	30	30	50	40	35	30	35	50	35	25	12	40	35	47	36	58
1827	124	5	53	61	30	35	50	40	45	30	25	40	45	50	30	4	30	42	32	61
1827	127	5	45	55	40	45	50	40	45	15	35	45	25	40	45	10	15	34	33	55
1827	128	4	64	61	55	30	45	20	45	40	20	45	8	30	45	45	30	42	40	64
1827	129	4-	62	55	55	45	45	30	53	50	30	53	50	45	45	35	30	49	42	63
1827	130	4	58	63	53	30	55	40	45	30	35	58	8	40	30	25	50	42	41	63
1827	133	4	55	58	55	40	50	40	53	50	40	50	10	40	25	45	20	44	40	58
1827	134	4-	62	62	50	30	40	40	55	45	35	53	45	45	25	12	45	47	44	62
1827	136	4-	55	58	45	35	50	15	53	55	45	53	58	30	40	35	40	55	45	64
1827	137	6-	45	50	10	8	45	12	12	8	12	15	10		25			19	24	50
1827	138	4	53	58	30	58	40	45	55	50	30	45	20	30	40	40	45	43	43	63
1827	139	4-	58	62	55	40	55	35	55	50	40	55	40	25	35	35	50	49	42	62

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS

Year	Var	R.	474	323	1037	151	189	019	1313	739	718	1446	140	049	070	263	510	Tot	Avg	Max
1827	140	4	55	63	30	35	40	45	50	45	35	50	35	30	30	35	30	50	37	63
1827	143	4	55	62	58	30	63	35	45	45	53	50	45	45	35	25	40	45	44	63
1827	144	5	45	55	35	30	30	40	6	45	15	25	15	12	25	50	25	36	29	58
1827	145	5	55	55	30	35	53	45	45	40	25	45	30	30	55	15	35	41	35	58
1827	147	4-	63	58	35	45	40	35	45	45	45	45	15	40	35	20	25	45	39	63
1827	148	6	40	40	10	50	40	50	8	45	3	45	45					15	31	50
1827	149	7+	8	35														2	22	35
1828	104	4	62	62	50	45	45	45	45	50	40	55	35	45	45	30	30	42	45	62
1828	105	5	58	58	40	30	58	35	55	35	40	50	40	30	25	30	30	33	35	62
1828	106	4	53	62	50	45	40	45	45	55	35	50	40	35	30	25	40	44	41	63
1828	111	4+	55	53	45	35	40	35	40	55	45	55	35	40	30	8	25	52	37	62
1828	121	4-	58	55	50	30	40	40	55	45	40	50	35	30	40	45	40	48	43	58
1828	123	5+	55	50	30	30	12	40	35	50	30	30	30	45	50	40	45	31	38	55
1829	104	4	55	55	40	50	40	25	45	50	40	50	40	45	30	45	30	49	41	62
1829	106	5-	55	55	40	40	45	45	40	55	35	50	45	30	35	45	8	38	40	58
1829	109	4+	62	58	40	25	50	40	45	45	45	50	40	30	35	30	45	46	39	62
1829	118	5	50	62	40	35	40	45	35	30	30	55	15	40	20	45	45	48	34	62
1829	120	8	10															1	10	10
1830	104	4	64	58	50	30	50	40	55	45	35	50	45	30	40	40	40	42	44	64
1830	105	4	58	58	50	15	40	45	55	50	45	50	35	30	40	50	45	44	41	58
1830	109	4+	55	58	30	30	58	30	53	40	30	45	10	45	25	30	40	36	40	62
1830	112	4	58	53	40	30	50	50	50	45	20	50	40	40	35	30	15	53	40	58
1830	114	5	20	45	40	35	25	35	15	8	30	15	25	15	35	10		28	29	58
1830	118	4-	63	55	30	45	45	45	55	40	45	55	30	40	45	35	35	43	43	63
1831	112	4-	55	55	35	25	40	30	40	45	40	50	45	20	45	35	35	43	42	62
1831	113	4	58	55	50	40	35	40	50	40	40	53	35	40	25	45	30	48	41	58
1831	115	4	63	58	40	25	53	30	55	55	25	58	30	25	40	25	30	47	42	63
1831	116	4-	58	55	45	40	40	40	50	55	25	50	40	40	12	45	40	42	45	63
1831	117	4+	58	55	30	25	50	20	53	30	30	45	45	40	30	45	20	45	39	58
1831	120	6-	50	30	20	12	25	20	30	6	15	35	45	6				19	23	55
1832	104	4	58	55	50	50	45	40	58	50	30	53	45	40	20	35	30	39	45	62
1832	108	4-	53	58	35	40	45	40	50	45	35	40	25	20	35	45	40	45	43	65
1832	109	4-	61	62	45	50	45	40	25	50	40	50	53	30	20	45	35	45	42	62
1832	114	4	55	58	55	60	55	40	50	40	35	45	35	40	25	45	30	44	42	62
1832	117	4+	58	62	45	45	55	40	50	35	35	58	53	40	40	30	40	45	43	62
1832	119	4-	62	55	55	55	50	50	45	45	40	55		55	20	35	30	41	46	64
1832	123	7+	55		35													2	45	55
1833	111	4+	55	55	20	45	40	30	20	40	30	40	25	40	25	25	20	43	38	58

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS – TOP 15 COLLECTIONS

Year	Var	R.	474	323	1037	151	189	019	1313	739	718	1446	140	049	070	263	510	Tot	Avg	Max
1833	115	5	40	45	40	35	30	35	15	12	20	25	30	30	35	25	20	39	28	53
1833	116	7+																0		0
1834	110	4-	63	55	35	20	50	48	50	40	35	53	35	40	40	45	55	40	46	64
1834	118	4	62	58	45	45	45	35	53	45	40	53	53	40	30	25	40	53	43	62
1834	119	4	58	63	45	45	40	25	40	40	40	45	20	55	30	25	30	47	41	64
1834	122	7+																0		0
1835	104	4-	55	58	45	25	40	45	45	45	30	50	20	30	20	35	20	42	41	63
1835	111	7+																0		0
1836	102	4-	53	55	45	58	50	20	53	40	35	50	30	45	40	35	15	45	45	64
1836	103	4-	58	62	35	30	50	45	53	45	40	50	40	35	30	35	25	41	42	63
1836	105	4-	61	55	40	40	40	50	40	50	40	53	12	40	25	25	45	43	43	61
1836	107	4+	62	55	35	30	45	20	40	45	35	40	35	40	20	20	30	41	39	64
1836	109	4-	58	53	50	45	50	40	30	50	35	50	20	30	25	12	40	42	41	62
1836	111	4-	63	58	40	50	55	30	62	40	40	53	35	53	40	30	25	41	46	63
1836	119	4-	58	58	50	40	53	35	40	53	30	50	55	40	20	35	50	44	40	58
1836	120	4-	55	55	55	45	55	40	58	45	40	58	45	40	25	35	40	46	43	58
1836	121	5+	45	55	35	35	25	40	30	40	8	30	25	30	50	6	25	31	28	55
1836	123	4	55	58	45	45	40	40	53	45	40	55	40	30	30	45	45	41	44	58
Total Vars			129	126	125	125	124	124	123	123	122	121	121	120	120	118	117	5357	38.2	
Avg Grade			53.3	55.4	38.6	36.3	42.6	36.6	41.1	39.1	31.1	45.5	32.1	33.4	30.1	30.2	32.0			



The 1829 O-120 PCGS VG10 is from the Stack's Bowers November 2019 auction of the "E. Horatio Morgan" collection, Lot 7172. 3 known.

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE

Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1807	111	4	55	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	47	26	55
1808	110	4	58	55	55	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	52	30	58
1809	101	5	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	30	42	25	50
1809	104	5-	55	53	53	53	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	39	31	55
1809	108	4+	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	50	28	50
1809	110	4+	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	46	29	58
1809	112	5-	53	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	46	27	53
1809	113	5	53	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	38	27	53
1809	114	5-	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	30	44	24	50
1810	107	4	63	63	62	61	58	58	55	55	55	50	50	45	45	45	45	50	37	63
1811	102	4	58	55	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	49	37	58
1811	107	4	64	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	64
1811	112	4-	63	63	62	61	60	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	57	39	63
1811	113	5-	58	53	53	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	46	32	58
1812	101	5-	50	45	40	40	35	30	30	30	25	25	25	25	20	20	20	26	22	50
1813	104	4	58	58	55	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	44	37	58
1814	106	4	64	62	60	58	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	50	37	64
1817	102	7-	35	8														2	22	35
1817	104	6	50	45	45	45	40	25	25	25	12	10	6	4	3			13	26	50
1817	105	4-	62	58	58	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	63	37	62
1817	107	4+	63	58	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	47	36	63
1817	108	4+	58	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	48	38	58
1818	105	4+	63	58	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	47	36	63
1818	106	4	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	39	58
1818	110	4	63	62	58	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	49	38	63
1818	113	4	58	58	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	47	39	58
1818	115	4	58	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	51	32	58
1819	105	4	62	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	44	40	62
1819	106	4	64	62	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	36	36	64
1819	107	4	61	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	53	41	61
1819	112	4	64	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	46	40	64
1820	107	5	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	38	29	55
1822	102	4	62	58	55	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	43	37	62
1822	103	4	64	62	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	48	35	64
1822	112	4+	64	58	55	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	39	36	64
1823	102	4	62	58	58	58	55	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	43	36	62
1823	109	5	58	58	55	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	30	30	30	35	30	58
1823	113	6+	40	30	20	12	12	8	4	4								8	16	40

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE

Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1824	102	5+	63	58	50	40	40	35	35	30	30	30	30	25	25	20	20	32	22	63
1824	106	4	63	63	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	41	63
1824	112	4	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	45	44	39	58
1824	114	5-	58	58	55	55	53	53	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	41	31	58
1825	103	4-	62	62	62	62	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	40	62
1825	104	4	64	63	61	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	45	48	37	64
1825	108	4-	64	63	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	50	46	42	64
1825	109	4+	64	63	55	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	48	33	64
1825	117	4-	65	63	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	65
1825	118	7+	20	15	8	8												4	13	20
1826	103	5-	58	58	58	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	44	38	58
1826	114	4	66	63	62	62	62	61	58	58	58	58	55	53	53	50	50	51	42	66
1826	115	4+	63	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	50	50	50	50	48	41	63
1826	119	4	63	63	62	58	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	40	41	63
1826	120	4-	64	63	61	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	44	64
1827	103	4	63	62	61	58	58	58	55	55	53	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	39	63
1827	108	4-	63	63	63	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	53	50	50	42	63
1827	109	4-	63	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	45	44	63
1827	110	4-	62	62	60	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	47	43	62
1827	111	4	63	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	45	43	63
1827	113	4	64	62	61	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	46	43	64
1827	116	4	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	45	45	45	51	40	62
1827	118	4-	64	63	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	47	44	64
1827	119	4	63	62	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	41	63
1827	121	4	63	62	62	62	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	45	45	43	41	63
1827	122	5	58	58	55	55	55	53	50	50	45	40	40	40	40	35	35	37	33	58
1827	123	4+	58	58	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	47	36	58
1827	124	5	61	58	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	42	32	61
1827	127	5	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	40	34	33	55
1827	128	4	64	62	61	58	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	42	40	64
1827	129	4-	63	63	62	60	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	49	42	63
1827	130	4	63	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	42	41	63
1827	133	4	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	44	40	58
1827	134	4-	62	62	62	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	47	44	62
1827	136	4-	64	63	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	45	64
1827	137	6-	50	45	45	45	40	35	30	30	25	20	15	12	12	12	12	19	24	50
1827	138	4	63	62	60	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	43	43	63
1827	139	4-	62	62	62	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	49	42	62

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE

Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1827	140	4	63	58	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	50	37	63
1827	143	4	63	62	60	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	45	44	63
1827	144	5	58	55	55	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	30	36	29	58
1827	145	5	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	41	35	58
1827	147	4-	63	62	58	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	39	63
1827	148	6	50	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	15	10	8	4	3	15	31	50
1827	149	7+	35	8														2	22	35
1828	104	4	62	62	62	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	42	45	62
1828	105	5	62	58	58	58	55	55	50	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	35	33	35	62
1828	106	4	63	62	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	44	41	63
1828	111	4+	62	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	52	37	62
1828	121	4-	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	50	50	50	50	50	48	43	58
1828	123	5+	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	40	40	40	40	31	38	55
1829	104	4	62	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	49	41	62
1829	106	5-	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	38	40	58
1829	109	4+	62	58	58	58	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	45	45	46	39	62
1829	118	5	62	58	55	55	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	48	34	62
1829	120	8	10															1	10	10
1830	104	4	64	64	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	50	50	50	50	50	50	42	44	64
1830	105	4	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	44	41	58
1830	109	4+	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	45	45	36	40	62
1830	112	4	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	53	40	58
1830	114	5	58	50	45	45	40	40	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	30	28	29	58
1830	118	4-	63	63	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	45	45	45	43	43	63
1831	112	4-	62	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	45	43	42	62
1831	113	4	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	48	41	58
1831	115	4	63	63	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	53	53	50	47	42	63
1831	116	4-	63	63	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	42	45	63
1831	117	4+	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	39	58
1831	120	6-	55	50	45	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	20	15	15	12	12	19	23	55
1832	104	4	62	62	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	39	45	62
1832	108	4-	65	62	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	45	45	43	65
1832	109	4-	62	62	61	58	58	58	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	45	42	62
1832	114	4	62	60	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	50	50	50	50	44	42	62
1832	117	4+	62	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	45	43	62
1832	119	4-	64	63	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	41	46	64
1832	123	7+	55	35														2	45	55
1833	111	4+	58	55	55	55	53	53	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	40	40	43	38	58

R4 TO R8 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR CENSUS BY GRADE

Year	Var	R.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Tot	Avg	Max
1833	115	5	53	53	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	35	30		39	28	53
1833	116	7+																0		0
1834	110	4-	64	63	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	40	46	64
1834	118	4	62	58	58	58	58	58	58	55	53	53	53	53	53	50	50	53	43	62
1834	119	4	64	63	58	58	58	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	47	41	64
1834	122	7+																0		0
1835	104	4-	63	63	62	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	45	45	42	41	63
1835	111	7+																0		0
1836	102	4-	64	62	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	45	45	64
1836	103	4-	63	62	62	58	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	45	41	42	63
1836	105	4-	61	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	43	43	61
1836	107	4+	64	62	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	45	45	45	45	45	41	39	64
1836	109	4-	62	60	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	42	41	62
1836	111	4-	63	62	62	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	50	41	46	63
1836	119	4-	58	58	58	58	55	55	53	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	50	44	40	58
1836	120	4-	58	58	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	53	53	50	46	43	58
1836	121	5+	55	50	50	50	45	40	40	40	35	35	35	35	30	30	30	31	28	55
1836	123	4	58	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	53	53	50	50	50	50	50	41	44	58
Total Vars			129	128	125	125	124	124	124	124	123	123	123	123	123	122	122	5357	38.2	
Avg Grade			59.1	56.8	55.6	54.1	53.2	52.0	50.7	49.8	49.2	48.0	46.8	45.8	45.0	44.4	43.4			



The 1832 O-123 PCGS PR55 was acquired privately in December 2019.
6 known (one in the Smithsonian collection). The Overton Plate Coin.

2021 Final Census Top 15 Collections

By Jim Koenings, LSCC #2798 & JRCS #048

In 2012, Dick Graham determined there were 56 die varieties when he wrote his book “A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars 1836-1839”. At that time, his collection was the most complete, missing only the Classic Rarity 1838-O GR-1.

In November 2018, I presented the first Census of Reeded Edge Halves in the J R Journal. Prior to that, Dick had sold a few of his coins and was then 3rd in the Top 15 Collections.

In July 2021, Dick Graham sold his reference set to David Kahn and David promptly sold most of it at the ANA Coin Show in Chicago in August 2021. Although Dick’s collection is not shown in the 2021 Census, they are still included in the total reported. One fortunate collector, JRCS #1387, reported he had purchased 7 of Dick’s coins and now has 40 different die varieties in the 2021 Census, with an average grade of 60. Bust Half Nut member #166 continues to be the only collector with all 56 known die marriages.

He also has an average grade of 60.

Before presenting the Census, a few explanations are necessary. Those collectors with B in front of their name are members of the Bust Half Nut Club. Those collectors with L in front of their member number are Life Members of the John Reich Collectors Society. Those that are initials only are non-members. RPD = Number Reported.

You may also notice a,b,c etc. after a number or initials, these are collectors with more than one collection, some collect by die stage.

Obviously, not all collectors reported their inventories, only 2 of the 9 known owners of 1838-O’s are listed.

At this time, I would like to thank all 37 participants of the 2021 Census for reporting their Census. This compares to 22 that reported in 2018. There were at least 4 members of the Liberty Seated Coin Club that participated in 2021.

2021 FINAL CENSUS TOP 15 COLLECTIONS REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLARS – 1836 TO 1839

Year	GR#	Rarity	JRCS MEMBER NUMBER or INITIALS															RPD	AVG.	MAX
			B166	48a	212a	48b	JDa	1104	48c	LM56	1387	48d	BK	212b	B195	869	LM56b			
1836	GR-1	2	65	45		3	25	45			61				45	30		20	45	65
1837	GR-1	5	62	55	55	50	53	45	45	35	62	40	50					12	50	62
	GR-2	3	55	58	58	45	50	45	45	12		35	40	40			8	16	40	62
	GR-3	2	62	58	45	45	50	50	45	6	61	40	30					15	43	62
	GR-4	3	63	61	35	55		50	53	30		53	45	30				12	50	63
	GR-5	1	64	58	53	53	53	45	53	20	62	45	40		35			15	48	64
	GR-6	3	63	62	25	53	50	20	45	8	58	45						10	42	63
	GR-7	2	63	53	55	45	53	25	45		55	20		40	45			13	46	63
	GR-8	4	64	58	20	45	53	40	40	45	55	20	35				40	14	39	64
	GR-9	1	65	55	55	40	55	45		40	61			8	45	30	35	15	45	65
	GR-10	4	62	58	45	53	40	25	45	20		45	40					11	45	62
	GR-11	5	63	58	55	55	45	45	40	45	58	35	40				30	17	46	63
	GR-12	2	62	62	55	30	55	60		35	63						8	10	49	63
	GR-13	1	60	58	53	45	55	8	35		55			35	58	40		11	47	60
	GR-14	1	62	61	62	50	50	55	45	12	62	45	45	45	45	40	10	22	45	64
	GR-15	3	63	55	50	45		50	45	45	62	45			45		30	12	48	63
	GR-16	4	58	55	55	53	53	50	53	40	61	50	25			45	12	14	45	61
	GR-17	1	64	58	58	53	55	40	53	40	62			40	58	40		14	54	64
	GR-18	1	66	62	58	45		60		15				50	30	35	8	12	46	66
	GR-19	3	64	62	62	58		35	55			20	50					9	52	64
	GR-20	3	63	55	30	53	55		45	25	62	40						11	49	63
	GR-21	2	62	58	55	30	53	30		25	63							9	48	63
	GR-22	2	64	55	40	55	45	40	55	30		40	40	40	53			18	46	64
	GR-23	2	65	62	45	55	55	60	55		55	35				30		12	54	65
	GR-24	2	64	61	50	40	61		35		62					30		9	55	64
	GR-25	5+	62	45	50	40	55	4	8		58		20					10	38	62

2021 FINAL CENSUS TOP 15 COLLECTIONS REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLARS – 1836 TO 1839

Year	GR#	Rarity	JRCS MEMBER NUMBER or INITIALS															RPD	AVG.	MAX
			B166	48a	212a	48b	JDa	1104	48c	LM56	1387	48d	BK	212b	B195	869	LM56b			
1838	GR-1	3	66	50	60	50	55	45	40	30		30	45	50			25	21	43	66
	GR-2	3	63	58	55	55	55	30	50	30		40				45		14	50	63
	GR-3	2	63	53	45	53	58	35	45	6	64	45					4	15	43	64
	GR-4	1	40	55	63	35	50	40	35	35	58			50	58		30	20	47	63
	GR-5	7	55	53	50	45	6		45	35		45	45					12	44	55
	GR-6	3	58	61	61	58	53	50	53	8	58	50	40		35	45		16	51	62
	GR-7	4	61	58	62	55	58	40	53	45		45	35	40				12	50	62
	GR-8	2	62	58	35	45	58	35	45	35	63	30		30				11	45	63
	GR-9	3	65	55	58	55	30	45	55	40	55	40	40			45		17	49	65
	GR-10	3	63	62	50	58	50	35	55	8	62	53		30				15	47	63
	GR-11	1	64	58	55	55	58	40	55	45	58	50		45	55		35	20	48	64
	GR-12	4	64	53	55	45	55	45	40	35	62						12	16	45	64
	GR-13	1	64	62	40	58	53	50		20	62		45	20	45		10	14	46	64
	GR-14	3	55	62	58	58	40	53	45	25	58	40						14	48	62
	GR-15	3	62	58	55	53	30	25	45	35	62	40				45		12	49	64
	GR-16	4	58	45	55	45	50		45	6		35	35					10	41	58
1838-O	GR-1	7	64															2	64	64
1839	GR-1	7	45	50														2	48	50
	GR-2	5+	62	45	50	45	53	50	35	45	62	35	45			40		11	48	62
	GR-3	5+	53	53	30	50	50	45	40			40	45					10	47	61
	GR-4	1	53	53	55	45	55	40	53	18	62	12	15	30		30	12	14	47	62
	GR-5	2	66	58	50	55	40	40	53	10	61	50	40	50	58	40		21	51	66
	GR-6	3	64	55	45	50	58		25	15	62							10	45	64
	GR-7	1	62	58	40	53	53	58	35	20	58	12			45	35	12	20	46	62
	GR-8	3	50	58	55	50	58	30	40	45	58	35						12	49	61
1839-O	GR-1	1	66	35	50		55	40		6	58			50	35	40		27	42	66
	GR-2	8	35	4														2	20	35
	GR-3	8	35															1	35	35
	GR-4	4	63	35	55	12	53	40			55				35			12	46	63
	GR-5	4+	58	40	40	6		45		30	55		4					12	38	58
Marriages Owned Average Grade			56	54	51	51	47	47	43	43	40	36	25	19	18	18	17	56 known Die Marriages		
			60	54	50	47	50	41	45	27	60	38	37	38	46	38	19			

Two collectors have chosen not to report their inventories for various reasons. One of them has 53 die marriages and the other has 50. They both own an 1838 GR-5 (R-6+), the 5th rarest Reeded Edge Half. Dick Graham owned (2) 1838 GR-5's before selling to David Kahn in July 2021. They were NCS AU Details (formerly Reiver) and a Raw XF (polished). Although I do not know the current owners, they are still included in the 12 as being reported. JRCS #1083 reported that he had purchased an 1838 GR-5 in PCGS XF45 unattributed in a Heritage Coin Auction in August 2021. He also reported 12 additional coins to just miss the Top 15 Collections, ending up in 17th place.

New to the Census, in 2021, is John D. of Chicago as he reports he has 47 die marriages and is currently tied for 5th place. John started collecting Reeded Edge Halves in January 2019.

The fact that having only 40 die marriages is in 9th place indicates that this series is still in its infancy. Of the 56 known die marriages, only 18 are rated R-4 or rarer. Only 4 die marriages may be out of reach for the average collector. They are as follows:

1839-O GR-3

1 known; 1 reported in 2021 Census

1839-O GR-2

2 known; 2 reported in 2021 Census

1838-O GR-1

9 known; 2 reported in 2021 Census

1839 GR-1

11 known; 2 reported in 2021 Census

The 5th rarest die marriage is

1838 GR-5

17 known; 12 reported in 2021 Census

Only one collector owns all 5 of the above die marriages.

A little history on 1838 GR-5:

1. Jules Reiver did not know of this variety when his Variety Identification Manual was printed in 1988.
2. Sheridan Downey reported the first specimen as 1838 JR-18 on May 16, 1988.
3. When Dick Graham's book on Reeded Edge Halves was printed in 2012, he listed 3 specimens known.
4. On August 17, 2021, an unattributed 1838 GR-5 in PCGS XF45 (the 17th known) sold for \$1,560 in a Heritage Auction. (Purchased by collector JRCS #1083)
5. On August 20, 2021, the **first ever** attributed 1838 GR-5 in PCGS VF25 sold for \$5,400 in a Heritage Auction. (Owner unknown) (believed to be one of 17 known)
6. A NGC Shipwrecked specimen will be offered in the November 2021 Stack's Auction in Baltimore. I believe the ship sank in 1846 and was recovered in 2008. The NGC serial number may be verified by NGC by inserting MS60 as the grade. The obverse appears to be warped by the sea water. (this coin is one of the 17 known)

Of the remaining 51 known die marriages, the 1837 GR-25 may be the 6th rarest. A PCGS VG-8 specimen sold in a Heritage Auction in February 2018 for \$1,200.

In the December 2020 issue of E-Gobrecht, I wrote an article entitled “Reeded Edge Halves are NOT Capped Bust Halves”. I explained that the reverse, reeded edge, thickness and diameter are all like Liberty Seated Half Dollars. All Liberty Seated Half Dollars say “HALF DOL.” on the reverse, while Capped Bust Halves say “50 C.”. Reeded Edge Halves after 1838 say “ HALF DOL.” on the reverse. When you consider the fact that Christian Gobrecht designed Reeded Edge Halves, I would think Liberty Seated Half Collectors would want to have Reeded Edge Halves 1836 to 1839 as part of their series. Another fact is that Capped Bust Halves, 1807 to 1836, have lettered edges and many features that are hand stamped into the dies. They were minted using a screw press. Reeded Edge Halves, 1836 to 1839, only have the last digit of the date stamped into the obverse die and were made with a steam powered press. Liberty Seated Halves were also minted with the steam press.

Reeded Edge Halves are priced about the same as Liberty Seated Half Dollars. Since 38 die marriages of Reeded Edge Halves are common (R-3 or less), I believe **ANYONE** can find the 38 die marriages in less than 3 years. I also believe that a serious collector can find at least 10 of the R-4 and rarer die marriages (even if attributed the 10 die marriages would only cost a small fraction over the common price. Think about it, 48 die marriages would put you in 5th place in the 2021 Census.

Since August 2019, I have been writing monthly Newsletters on the 38 most common die marriages of Reeded Edge Halves. My last Newsletter #29 was emailed on September 15, 2021. It had large photos and information on the 1838 GR-4 die marriage. The next Newsletter will cover 1838 GR-6. There are at least 100 interested collectors that receive these free Newsletters. If you would like to receive them, you simply must send your email address and your member number to me at: bustcoin1@verizon.net

I also believe there are new die marriages to be found. One former JRCS member found a die marriage in 1994 and is still looking for a second specimen to confirm that discovery. My son has one die marriage in his collection that I can't attribute (perhaps it is a different die stage). Another collector has sent me photos of a coin and we are still looking for a 2nd specimen.

I believe Reeded Edge Halves are a fantastic series with more study needed on die stages. Who will discover the next new die marriage?

Happy Hunting!

Which 1794 Half Dime Would You Choose?

By Ron Guth

If you were a type collector looking for a high-grade 1794 Half Dime, which coin would you choose?

Actually, you'd have a nice choice of specimens, all costly of course, because over a dozen different examples have been certified in MS65 or better by PCGS and NGC. The following list ranks them by descending grade with pedigrees that are as up-to-date as possible.

1. 1794 H10C PCGS SP67. This monster of a coin was called a Gem Brilliant Proof by Stack's in 1997 but has since been certified by PCGS as a Specimen. LM-3's often exhibit strong strikes, but this one is exceptional. This is also an early state of the dies, with no die cracks on the lower reverse. *Stack's 12/1997:2134 (as Raw Gem Brilliant Proof), \$60,500.00 — Greensboro Collection, Part I — Heritage 10/2012:3822 (as PCGS SP67 06561188), \$367,775.00 — Larry Hanks (as agent) — D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part I — Stack's/Bowers & Sotheby's 5/2015:1002 (as PCGS SP67 06561188), \$305,500.00*
2. 1794 H10C NGC MS67. This is another example with a strong strike. *Bowers & Merena 2/2008:374 (as NGC MS67) — Cardinal Collection Educational Foundation — Bowers & Merena 8/2010:1003 (as NGC MS67 1950651005), \$132,250.00*
3. 1794 H10C PCGS MS66. This was the coin Bob Simpson picked for his collection and we all know he has good taste. It's another LM-3 with a great strike despite the deterioration of the reverse die. *Bob R. Simpson Collection, Part III — Heritage 1/2021:3013 (as PCGS MS66 CAC 40275364), \$132,000.00*
4. 1794 H10C SP66*. This is a LM-2 marriage which is not as well-struck as the previous LM-3 examples, but it is definitely a rarer marriage, plus NGC gave it a star. *American Numismatic Rarities*

7/2005:877 (as NGC SP65), \$109,250.00 — *Joseph C. Thomas Collection* — *Heritage* 4/2009:2176 (as NGC SP65 1748944001), \$86,250.00 — *Heritage* 1/2016:5295 (as NGC SP66* 3273814001), \$94,000.00

5. 1794 H10C NGC MS66. We're back with the LM-3 marriage, here in a late state with some planchet striations on the reverse and what appears to be a small, struck-through area on the obverse below Star 8 and the L of LIBERTY. *Stack's "Auction '80"* 8/1980:1118 (as *Raw Gem Brilliant Uncirculated*), \$40,000.00 — *Heritage* 9/1998:5830 (as NGC MS66), not sold — *Heritage* 6/2004:6033 (as NGC MS66 636962003), \$83,950.00 — *Heritage* 7/2009:1055 (as NGC MS66 636962003), \$69,000.00 — *Heritage* 10/2021:3488 (as NGC MS66 636962003), \$102,000.00
6. 1794 H10C PCGS MS65+. A really neat, late state of the LM-4 marriage with some great cracks on both sides and a little die sinking on the upper right reverse. I was the auctioneer for Catherine Bullowa when this coin sold in 2005 as a Choice Frosty Unc. She was thrilled with the selling price. This was the same sale where her 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar sold for \$1,265,000. She was thrilled with that price, too. *Coinhunter* 12/2005:378 (as *Raw Choice Frosty Uncirculated*), \$93,500.00 — *Stack's/Bowers* 2/2012:4052 (as NGC MS66 1578111070), \$71,875.00
7. 1794 H10C PCGS MS65+. Another nice LM-4, but in a much earlier state than the preceding. This is the Eliasberg example cited by Logan and McCloskey in their Half Dime book. *Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection* — *Bowers & Merena* 5/1996:887 (as *Raw MS65*), \$45,100.00 — *Heritage* 1/2016:5297 (as PCGS MS65+ 10005480), \$70,500.00 — *Heritage* 8/2016:3993 (as PCGS MS65+ CAC 10005480), \$61,687.50
8. 1794 H10C PCGS MS65 CAC. Back to the LM-3 marriage and, as might be expected, this piece shows great details on both sides. D.L. Hansen now owns this piece, which says a lot, but is this just a placeholder until he can upgrade? Most of us would be content to stop here. After all, the Eliasberg pedigree means a lot to both him and us. *Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection* — *Bowers & Merena* 5/1996:886 (as *Raw MS64*), \$26,400.00 — *Heritage* 4/2015:4963 (as PCGS MS65 CAC 06994839), \$67,562.50 — *D.L. Hansen Collection* (as PCGS MS65 CAC 06994839)
9. 1794 H10C PCGS MS65. Is anyone surprised to see another LM-3 in the Top Ten? This is a duplicate for D.L. Hansen, but it is unclear whether he purchased this one before the previous example, or after. *American Numismatic Rarities* 1/2004:1337 (as PCGS MS65), \$39,100.00 — *American Numismatic Rarities* 5/2005:106 (as NGC MS65), \$73,600.00 — *Bowers & Merena* 8/2009:679 (as NGC MS65), \$41,687.50 — *D.L. Hansen Collection* (as PCGS MS65 28948904)

10. 1794 H10C NGC SP65. I leapfrogged this one over a couple of PCGS MS65's because it's in a Specimen holder and it's likely the finest example of the really rare LM-1 marriage. In 2014, Stack's/Bowers added Lelan Rogers as a previous owner, but this coin does not appear to match the plate in the Numisma '95 auction of some of his coins — perhaps it was sold privately. *Lelan Rogers Collection, sold privately?* — *American Numismatic Rarities* 1/2004:1336 (as NGC SP64), \$46,000.00 — *Stack's/Bowers* 2/2014:2041 (as NGC SP64), \$64,625.00 — *Stack's/Bowers* 8/2014:13056 (as NGC SP65 3836424001), \$129,250.00

If you know of additional high-grade examples, the whereabouts of any of the coins listed above, or any pertinent information, please contact me at ron@numismaticdetectives.com



PCGS SP67 Image courtesy PCGS.com



PCGS MS65+ Plate coin for LM-4 Logan/McCloskey Federal Half Dimes. Image courtesy PCGS.com

The Half Dime Lunch Room

By *W. David Perkins and David Finkelstein*

In the March 22, 2020 *John Reich Newsletter*, the following menu was posted from *The Half Dime Lunch Room*:

LADIES' AND GENTS'
Half Dime Lunch Room
5c. each for all Dishes Served.

Prompt Attention. No Waiting. Open from 5 a. m. to 11 p. m.

BILL OF FARE.

Clam Chowder with Crackers,	5c	Broiled Steak, Bread and Butter,	5c
Soup of all kinds,	5c	Beef Stew,	5c
Fish with Bread and Butter,	5c	Lamb Stew,	5c
Roast Beef,	5c	Veal Pot Pie,	5c
Roast Pork,	5c	Baked Beans,	5c
Fried Sausage,	5c	Cold Meats,	5c
Pork Chops,	5c	Oatmeal and Milk,	5c
Fried Tripe,	5c	Griddle Cakes,	5c
Fried Liver,	5c	Bread, or Crackers, and Milk,	5c
Fish Cakes,	5c	Pies, Puddings, Doughnuts,	5c
Corned Beef Hash,	5c	Coffee, Tea, Milk,	5c

VEGETABLES 5c.

Bread and Pastry all Home Made. Best Coffee and Tea a Specialty.
EVERYTHING NEAT AND CLEAN.
D. M. LAWLOR, - Proprietor,
22 RAILROAD AVENUE, MERIDEN, CONN.

28 Exchange Place, Providence, R. I. 375 Asylum St. Hartford, Conn.
Meriden Journal Print.

“Mr. Half Dime”. For over 35 years, he collected, studied, and wrote about Early, Capped Bust, and Liberty Seated Half Dimes.

Newspaper searches confirmed that D. M. Lawlor’s *Half Dime Lunch Rooms* were open for business in Hartford and Meriden, Connecticut, and Providence, Rhode Island.

The following was extracted from “*HARTFORD AND ITS POINTS OF INTEREST, ILLUSTRATED FROM ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS*”, New York, Mercantile Illustration Company, 106 Times Building, 1893:

“HALF-DIME LUNCH (D. M. Lawlor) ; Five Cents Each for All Dishes Served ; Prompt Attention, No Waiting ; Open from 5.30 A. M. to 11 P.M. ; Bread and Pastry All Home-Made ; Best Coffee and Tea a Specialty ; Everything Neat and Clean ; No. 375 Asylum Street.— In a busy, bustling community like

The above menu was from the collection of Stephen Crain. Stephen was known as

the business section of Hartford, facilities for obtaining a quick lunch of wholesome food well prepared and promptly served are a great desideratum, and whenever they are offered they are sure to be taken full advantage of. It does not require much keenness of perception to ascertain that the "Half-Dime Lunch" fills a most important need, for the patronage bestowed upon it is such as would overwhelm any establishment not so well equipped to provide for it. The feature of this popular lunch room, as its name indicates, is that all dishes served cost but five cents each, while the bill of fare is as long and as varied as that presented at restaurants where the prices are four or five times higher. Every one receives prompt attention ; there is no waiting, and everything is neat and clean. The bill includes soups of all kinds, roast and boiled meats, stews, and in fact about everything that the average man could want from which to make a selection. The place is bright and attractive, and ample room is provided for a large number of guests, as the lunch room occupies an entire floor, at No. 375 Asylum Street, the dimensions of which are 30 x 50 feet. It should be prominently mentioned that the proprietor, Mr. D. M. Lawlor, makes a specialty of superior coffee and tea, and that all bread and pastry served are home-made".

Were these three Half Dime lunchrooms unique? Was the concept of a Half Dime Lunch Room conceived by D. M. Lawlor? Absolutely not. "Half Dime" and "Five

Cent" lunches/lunchrooms were advertised in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont and Wisconsin newspapers during the 1880s and 1890s.

So far, the earliest reference found for a "Half Dime" lunch / lunchroom in a newspaper was in the Sunday, March 8, 1885 Springfield, Massachusetts Republican (see Figure 2). The greatest number of lunchrooms advertised as "Half Dime" lunchrooms appear to have been located in Connecticut. Refer to Figures 3 through 7 for some of those advertisements.

HALF DIME
LUNCH ROOM,
251-253 Main Street.,
OPPOSITE GOODRICH BLOCK.

**The best place in the City for a good
Hot Dinner or Lunch at all hours.**
Open from 6 a. m., to 8 p. m.
Ample accommodation. No waiting.
Every thing fresh, clean and wholesome.

5 CENTS EACH
-FOR-
ALL DISHES SERVED.

*Figure 2 - Sunday, March 8, 1885 Springfield,
Massachusetts Republican*

John W. Lane, until lately in the custom house, has purchased the Half Dime Lunch room from A. E. Bradley and will become a restauranter.

Figure 3 - Wednesday, December 9, 1885 New Haven, CT Register

Read the little "ad" of Hicks Bros. "Half Dime Lunch" this week, and never go hungry with a nickel in your pocket.

Figure 4 - Saturday, August 14, 1886 Hartford, CT Examiner

—People visiting Springfield will find the Half-dime Lunch Rooms, 251 and 253 Main-st., the place to get their meals. The location is but a short distance from the depot, the service is good and the prices are the lowest in the city. The variety is large and five cents each is charged for all dishes served.

Figure 5 - Thursday, May 5, 1887 Stafford Springs, CT Press

PARTIES with capital, wishing to engage in Half Dime Lunch Room, will do well to write or call on A. E. Bradley, 22 Crown street, city. Experience not necessary. 189413u

Figure 6 - Thursday, September 29, 1887 New Haven, CT Register

WANTED—Everybody to know that the New Half Dime Lunch Room is now open for business. Come once and you will come again. KINGLEY & BUNKS, proprietors, 211 & 218 South Main street.

Figure 7 - Monday, March 9, 1891 Waterbury, CT Evening Democrat

One might assume, based on the previous advertisements, that the going rate for a quality lunch during the 1880s and 1890s cost one Half Dime. That may or not be true.

- "Dime" and "Ten Cent" lunches / lunchrooms were first advertised in New Haven, CT newspapers in September 1861. Ads also appeared in newspapers in Columbus, OH beginning 1867, Memphis, TN beginning 1867, Indianapolis, IN beginning 1873, Chicago, IL beginning 1876, Springfield, MA beginning 1876, Washington D.C. beginning 1877 and New York City beginning 1877.
- Ads for a "Fifteen Cent Lunch" began appearing in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, New York and Washington D. C. newspapers in the 1870s.
- Ads for a "Quarter Lunch" began appearing in Arizona, Washington D. C., and Illinois newspapers in the 1870s.

Considering that Bust coins circulated throughout the entire 19th century, one can only wonder how many 1801 Half Dimes, 1804 Dimes, 1796 and 1823/2 Quarters, and 1796, 1797, and 1817/4 Half Dollars were used to pay for a meal in a lunchroom.

6 Bit Half Dollars Revisited

By David Finkelstein

In Volume 8 / Issue 4 (July, 1994) of the JRJ, I published an article titled “2 Bit and 6 Bit Bust Half Dollars”. In that article, I stated:

“I am only aware of a handful of coins that are either uniface or have one die impression on one side of the coin, and two die impressions on the other side of the coin”.

In the 27 years since that article was published, the number of double and triple struck Bust coins that I have obtained for my personal collection has increased from 0 coins to 33 coins. Of those 33 coins, 10 are double struck on only one side.

First, to recap, a double struck one sided only coin is created when:

1. Two blank planchets were fed into the screw press at the same time; one on top of the other. This resulted in one planchet receiving only the impression from the hammer die, and the other

planchet receiving only the impression from the anvil die. One coin was a uniface obverse, and the other was a uniface reverse.

2. If the uniface obverse was recycled through the screw press, it would have been struck from both the anvil and anvil dies. If the obverse die from the second strike struck the obverse from the first strike, the resulting coin would have received two obverse die strikes and only one reverse die strike.
3. If the uniface reverse was recycled through the screw press, and the reverse die from the second strike struck the reverse from the first strike, the resulting coin would have received two reverse die strikes and only one obverse die strike.

Of the 84,266,973 Flowing Hair, Draped Bust, and Capped Bust Lettered Edge Half Dollars that were struck between 1794 and 1836, only one uniface Half Dollar is

known. That coin, a 1795 Uniface Reverse H, was sold as lot 140 in the Stacks March 29-31, 1973 Massachusetts Historical Society auction. The probability that a uniface Bust Half Dollar was released into circulation is therefore $1 / 84,266,973$ or .0000011867 %. That makes the probability of a uniface Bust Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar or Dollar being released into circulation virtually 0.00. Since the uniface Bust coins were not released into circulation, it is safe to assume that they were detected when struck and recycled through the screw press to create double struck one sided only coins.

If the screw press operator took care in aligning the devices of the uniface strike with the die of the second strike, one side of the resulting coin would have minimal, but noticeable, separation between the devices of both strikes. The other side of the coin would have been struck only one time. The following images are of two Bust Half Dollars from my collection that are double struck one sided only with relatively minimal, but very noticeable, separation of the devices:

1. 1809 O-109A Double Struck Obverse Only (see Figures 1, 2, and 3).
2. 1823 O-103 Double Struck Obverse Only (see Figures 4 and 5).

If the devices of the uniface strike were not aligned with the die of the second strike, then some interesting looking coins were struck. The following are some really interesting looking double struck one sided only Bust Half Dollars from my collection:

1. 1812 O-103 Double Struck Reverse Only (see Figures 6 and 7). Note the two scrolls, two sets of gules and azures within the shield, and a third eagle's wing.
2. 1832 O-103 Double Struck Reverse Only (see Figures 8 through 12). Note the doubled scroll and doubled scroll letters, two eagle heads, two sets of gules and azures within the shield, and the 5 of 50 C from the first strike buried in the olive leaf from the second strike.
3. 1836 O-104A Double Struck Reverse Only (see Figures 13 and 14). Note that the first strike was approximately 20% off center towards 9:00.



Figure 1: 1809 O-109A Double Struck Obverse Only



Figures 2 & 3: 1809 O-109A Double Struck Obverse Only



Figures 4 & 5: 1823 O-103 Double Struck Obverse Only



Figures 6 & 7: 1812 O-103 Double Struck Reverse Only



Figures 8 & 9: 1832 O-103 Double Struck Reverse Only



*Figures 10, 11 & 12:
1832 O-103 Double Struck Reverse Only*



*Figures 13 & 14:
1836 O-104A Double Struck Reverse Only*

1806 O-111b Draped Bust Half Dollar Die Stage

By Charles D. Horning, DDS

My interest was piqued when an example of the elusive 1806 O-111b half dollar became available at auction (Heritage ANA Sale 1333 August, 2021 Lot 3779). After researching the available information, I realized that relatively little had been done to fully investigate that die stage.

I discovered through Steve Herrman's **AMBPR** of Spring 2021, that he had listed 4 known examples - not including the one that was for sale in the above mentioned Heritage Sale. He listed the rarity rating as 7?. Please note that this publication lists only known examples that have been auctioned by the major auction houses plus limited private treaty sales.

Steve Tompkins, in his seminal work on early Federal Half Dollars, *Early United States Half Dollars, Vol. 1 1794-1807*, lists this die stage as **DS-7**, meaning that in his research, he was able to identify 7 different stages of die deterioration for this reverse die usage. The "b" die stage is the terminal condition of the die. Further evaluation

of his efforts also identifies the obverse die progression of the 1806 O-111, paired with this die stage 7, as obverse die stage 4 - therefore, the terminal Tompkins die stage is **DS-4/7**.

The purpose of this article, is to clarify the requirements necessary for the **1806 O-111 "b"** die stage. Until recently, the most widely used die marriage identification text was the 3rd edition of Overton's *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836*. The 4th edition well as the 5th edition, (Parsley's revisions), are even larger and more unwieldy. The 4th and 5th editions, though expanded, proved to be unpopular with many collectors. The majority of variety collectors have copied/modified these references with their own notations, in order to create a more useful and less cumbersome reference. Without a doubt, if one has the time and wishes to delve more deeply into variety identification and die progression, the Tompkins work is today's new standard.

The Overton 3rd edition reference lists the O-111 variety, including notes and a photograph of the O-111 “a” die stage with a cud over E-1, extending from the right edge of **T** to the left edge of **D** in United. There is no reference to or photo of the “b” die stage, except to state that the die breakdown progresses to 2 full cuds, with the second cud over **UN** in United.



*1806/9 recut date, actually 6 over inverted 6.
Image courtesy HA.com.*

If we presume the Overton book as the most commonly used variety identification manual, then there is little doubt that finding a true “b” die stage would be challenging. The obverse can be easily identified as the 6/9 variety more accurately described as the 6 over inverted 6, as the first obverse die usage. The reverse, as annotated by Overton and photographically by Tompkins, progresses from a to a die break over **E1** to a full cud. The second major die crack over **UN** progresses to a retained cud and to a subsequent full cud. The certification services and auction houses add to the confusion by either not labeling or misattributing the die stage. Employing the Tompkins reference as an attribution guide would easily resolve any issues.

It was not until Steve Herrman in his Spring 2019 edition of **AMBPR** that the collecting community became more aware of this terminal die stage. Yet confusion still reigned as the later stage die crack/retained cud over **UN** were both also attributed as the “b” die stage.

In order to more fully emphasize my point, the most current publicly published information appeared in the **John Reich Journal**, March 2021 (Vol.31/Issue1) pp. 23-37, by the Bust Half Nut Club Rarity Rating Committee. This work was titled *The Revised Rarity Rating Estimates for Early US Half Dollar Die Varieties*, 5th Edition. The committee based its work on the 5th edition of the Overton work, which did not include the “b” stage of the 1806 O-111 marriage (p.25). This article now becomes the new standard for rarity ratings for these marriages and die stages. It will/should be employed by collectors, researchers and auction houses for reference.

The overriding purpose then, of this article, is to propose a modified classification system for the die stages of the 1806 O-111. This marriage (T-11), would be defined as a reverse with no cuds. Overton obverse 7 and reverse **H**. Tompkins obverse 7 and reverse **S**.



*Single cud over TED of United. Image courtesy HA.com
sale #1240, Lot 3119.*

The Overton O-111 “a” die stage would correspond to the Tompkins **DS-4, 5 and 6**. This would include the cud over **E1** extending from the right top edge of **T** to the top left edge of **D** in United. The developing die crack over **UN** progresses to a retained cud.



True O-111b die stage exhibiting full cuds over TED and UN. Image courtesy HA.com 8/21 lot 3779.

The O-111 “b” die stage would correspond to the Tompkins **DS-7** with 2 full cuds. In some specimens, there appears is die pitting, causing further irregular die breakdown to the left of the left upright of **U**. The above descriptives should now fully clarify the terminal “b” die stage for the reverse of the 1806 O-111 marriage.

As mentioned previously, Herrman, in the Spring 2021 **AMBPR** had listed the “b” die stage as having a rarity of **R-7?** Based on his further evaluation, he changed the rarity designation to **R-6+?** in his latest

edition. He now identifies the “b” die stage as having a full cud over **UN** and a die crack between **ER**. He lists 10 transactions, with 13 coins known.

It also needs to be noted that PCGS has recently published a rarity scale that ranges from 1.0 to 10.1. It is this author’s opinion that, though interesting, it will have no practical application for the collectors of early Federal coinage.

Through current research, there are now 19 known individual examples of the “b” die stage. Of those, 13 are encapsulated by the 2 major certification services, one by ANACS, one by PCI and 4 are raw. It could certainly be assumed that other examples exist in the coin universe, placing this die stage in the **R-6** category.

The author would like to thank all of those individuals who offered their insight as well as those collectors who shared their collections.

It is certainly a given hypothesis in numismatics, that the research is ever evolving and that new discoveries are the lifeblood of our hobby. Therefore, if any reader of this article has an example of the “b” die stage that has yet to be catalogued, please take a moment to forward your information to me.

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Recognition of the Crushed Lettered Edge Half Dollars

By Russell Logan, Henry Hilgard and Bradley Karoleff

I recently came across an article I co-authored with Russ Logan and Henry Hilgard supporting the recognition of the CLE half dollars for the Bust Half Nut Club. There was a bit of controversy in the early 1990's as to whether they should be identified by Overton numbers and recognized in their census. Here was our argument for identifying them by Overton number. Note: I have edited the original for space requirements and to omit names of other members of the club.

We would first like to state some FACTS concerning the CLE half dollars. We will then follow with our opinions and conclusions to help everyone make an informed decision on the status of the CLE's.

First we would suggest that everyone who has access to a copy of the JRJ, Volume 5 / Issue 3, reread Russ Logan's article on the CLE's. This will give you the best understanding of exactly what is known about the CLE's. Now, in lieu of reprinting the article, we would like to point out the following FACTS.

1. Three different CLE half dollars are known bearing the dates 1833, 1834 and 1835.
2. Each CLE was struck using a different obverse die that was not used to produce any known business strikes.
3. All 3 CLE's shared a common reverse that was also used to strike 1836 O-106 business strike and proof half dollars.
4. The dentil count for the obverse dies of the CLE's match that for business strike bust halves of the same year.
5. The CLE's were struck before the 1836 O-106 as evidenced by the pristine condition of the reverse die when used for the CLE's and the deterioration present for striking the 1836 O-106's.
6. The obverse die of the 1836 O-106 was later married with a different reverse die to produce 1836 O-107's.
7. The CLE's are all proof strikes and the 1836 O-106 is also known in proof.

8. The planchets used to strike the CLE's were the correct weight and fineness for the 1807-1836 period. They were also first passed through the Castaing machine where they received edge lettering.
9. They were held in a smooth closed collar during striking which squashed the lettering making it difficult to read.
10. The average diameter of the CLE's (1.273 inches) closely approximates the diameter for the lettered edge halves (1.2790 inches average) and is considerably out of the range for the reeded edge halves (1.205 inches).
11. The letter fonts, size of the stars and width of the dates all coincide with business strike coins of their respective years.
12. Other lettered edge half dollars were struck both before and after the CLE's.
13. The edge die used on the planchet of one of the 1834 CLE's has been identified as edge #3 of 1836. This same edge was used in striking 1836 O-106a halves.
14. Floyd Farley was the sole contributor of the "Three Mongrels" page in the 1981 green BHNC supplement. Floyd printed his opinion without the knowledge or consent of the remaining membership of the BHNC. Richard Pugh merely copied Floyd's work for the 1987 edition of the BHNC supplement.

The following statements are opinions based on the preceding facts:

1. The CLE's were struck in early 1836 based on the reverse die state progression and identifiable edge die.
2. The CLE's were struck in a screw press as evidenced by the weakness in the design. The obverse in the forecurls and the reverse in either the eagle's talons or at the end of the olive stem. These weaknesses are similar to other Proof lettered edge halves and they completely disappear on the reeded edge Proofs struck from the steam press.
3. Al Overton never had the opportunity to view any of the CLE's. Al died in 1972 and the CLE's were first described in detail by a BHNC member in 1974 or 1975. This accounts for them never having been mentioned in the Overton books.

Now let's compare our situation to that of other types of variety collector to help draw some conclusions.

There are other coins that were struck as Proof only issues and are identified by collectors (cataloguers) of that series. The following will summarize the issues.

COIN	MARRIAGE	OBV used for business	REV used for business
1834 Cent	N7	No	No
1827 Dime	JR10	Yes	Yes
1827 Qt	B2	Yes	Yes
1832 Half	O123	Yes	Yes
1801 Dollar	B5	No	No
1802 Dollar	B8	No	No
1803 Dollar	B7	No	No
1833 CLE	O116	No	Yes
1834 CLE	O122	No	Yes
1835 CLE	O111	No	Yes

As you can see, there are other coins in other series like the CLE's. They have ALL been identified by their respective cataloguers. There are marriages that have used both dies for business strikes, neither dies for business strikes. That leaves us with the CLE's which used one die exclusively for Proofs and one die went on to produce circulating coins. This situation falls between the extremes shown, and as such, the CLE's should be assigned Overton numbers for the census.

The dissenting paper mentioned pattern issues for the bust half dollar series arguing the CLE's should be treated as such. The patterns listed were the 1813 Judd 42 and 43 struck from standard dies. The 1814 platinum piece, Judd 44, also struck from standard dies and the 1823 copper Judd 47 from standard dies. They also mentioned the 1836 reeded edge half, Judd 57, that ended up being the adopted design.

The most significant reason to reject the first four patterns and NOT the CLE's is that fact that the CLE's were LEGAL TENDER at the time of striking. The off metal Judd's could not have been legal tender at the time of minting. The obvious reason to exclude Judd 57 is that it is a reeded edge half dollar. The CLE's are LETTERED EDGE HALVES and thusly remain within our scope of cataloguing.

There has been objections to listing the CLE's because of the question as to the year of their manufacture. There are NUMEROUS examples through the early year of the Mint of coins struck in years differing from the date appearing on the coins. The 1834 O109, O110, O119, O120 and O121 were all struck in 1835. The 1834 N7 large cent is believed to have been struck in 1835. The 1825 B2 quarter is believed

to have been struck "at a much later date". There are numerous bust half dimes which were made after their indicated dates. This argument should, therefore, not be used to exclude the CLE's.

It has been argued that die states are not separately collected as unique Overton numbers. The bearded goddess, single leaf varieties and others were mentioned. The CLE's are NOT die states. They are a different marriage of two separate dies, again a reason to recognize them.

Other small points and counterpoints were covered and then our conclusion....

We, as numismatists, have a mission to identify and classify the coins to the best of our abilities! This includes making difficult decisions on coins that we may never have the opportunity to own. The fact that we may never own these wonderful coins should not cloud our judgement whether to include them in the lettered edge series. There has been a great mystique surrounding these coins for many decades that has only recently been dented by Russ Logan's article in the JRJ. They have only recently been "accepted" by the BHNC in the census. We MUST NOT take a back seat to the collectors/researchers in other series by failing to accept the CLE's. We cannot regress to the "Dark Ages" of numismatics and ignore these wonderful and contemporary coins. Afterall, they ARE bust halves, and they have lettered edges.

Eventually the BHNC decided to grant the CLE's Overton numbers and include them in the census. The compromise was that anyone assembling the other 450 die marriages in the series would be considered "complete" by die marriage.

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